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Dear Friend,

I hope that you and your family are well. This week in Washington, the Biden Administration's incompetence was on full display.

After the now-infamous Chinese Spy Balloon incident, the Biden administration is bumbling its way through potentially one of the greatest environmental catastrophes in recent memory.

After waiting 10 days to issue its first statement on the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment and ensuing chemical release, the Biden administration just denied this community FEMA assistance.

Providing \$100+ billion to a foreign war effort while turning away from fellow Americans is the Swamp at its worst. However, many in the Swamp are happy with the status quo because it benefits them personally. This is disgraceful, and I will never stop fighting against the entrenched Deep State mindset and for a government that serves the people.

Next week, [I'll be visiting our Southwest border](#) for a Judiciary Committee field hearing on the Biden administration's lawless border and the resulting crisis. I'll be sure to bring updates via social media and this newsletter.

Fighting unjust vaccine policies

This week, Senator Rand Paul and I introduced the Covid-19 Vaccination Non-Discrimination Act, which will prevent healthcare facilities from denying treatment to anyone based on their COVID vaccination status. In an ideal world, this wouldn't even be a problem. Sadly, that isn't the case.

In North Carolina, the Hicks family illustrates perfectly why this legislation is so badly needed. 14-year-old Yulia Hicks has a rare genetic condition requiring a kidney transplant. The family went to Duke University hospital for help, but Yulia was denied a kidney transplant because she wasn't vaccinated for COVID-19.

READ: [Teen denied kidney transplant because she's not vaccinated for COVID](#)

Yulia had previously contracted COVID-19, giving her natural immunity. Even [NBC News now admits](#) what many knew all along – that natural immunity provides a strong protection against COVID infection.

There's no reason that medical facilities should deny care to people based on their COVID-19 vaccination status, and there's certainly no reason for institutions that do so to receive any federal funding. Our bill will remedy that injustice and affirms that people have the right to make their own medical decisions.

READ: [Rep. Bishop, Senator Paul Introduce the Covid-19 Vaccination Non-Discrimination Act](#)

I also joined Congressman Chip Roy in demanding answers from the CDC on their latest actions to track the vaccination status of Americans.



Rep. Dan Bishop ✓
@RepDanBishop

...

Glad to sign this letter with @RepChipRoy and my colleagues.

There's simply no reason for this data to be collected - government shouldn't be conducting surveillance of Americans' personal medical decisions.



Rep. Chip Roy Press Office ✓ @RepChipRoy · Feb 14

Why is the CDC preparing to track the reason that an American citizen declined to take the COVID-19 vaccine?

This data serves no sincere purpose but could be used to create a database.

Rep. Roy is demanding answers from the CDC.

MORE: [twitter.com/Tyler2ONeil/st...](https://twitter.com/Tyler2ONeil/status/1624444444444444444)

READ: [House Republicans Demand Answers on CDC's New Database to Monitor Why Americans Didn't Take COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

The government's vaccination policies are just one of many unjust policies that still linger from the lockdown regime. I remain committed to undoing these tyrannical policies and restoring medical freedom.

Government disaster “response”

It's been two weeks since the Chinese Spy Balloon was allowed to traverse the country. The Biden administration shot the balloon down only after it had passed over the US, including our own district and many sensitive military areas.

Biden then directed the Air Force to shoot down three more unidentified flying objects – and the Biden administration provided next to no confirmation on these

shootdowns, causing panic and confusion. Earlier this week, I spoke with Newsmax about the issue:



Now it turns out that they may have sent missiles that cost \$400,000 a pop after a hobbyist balloon from the [Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade](#), a local balloon hobbyist group.

TWEET: [The Chinese spy balloon gets to traverse the whole country, but the poor bottlecap brigade gets the full force of the U.S. military?](#)

If this turns out to be the case, it is a failure of epic proportions. Whatever these objects turn out to be, Congressional Republicans will hold the administration's feet to the fire.

In addition to incompetence in the sky, we also witnessed it on the ground.

A train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, resulted in toxic chemicals spilling and wreaking havoc on the local community. The initial response involved burning dangerous chemicals, creating a toxic cloud that spread poison for miles. Residents have reported health issues and the deaths of pets and wildlife. This is a deeply concerning situation, and one that my office is monitoring closely.

READ: [Biden admin turns down Ohio's request for disaster assistance after toxic derailment](#)

The Biden administration recently denied Ohio's request for disaster aid -- but still has no qualms about sending more than \$100 billion to Ukraine.

Despite the gravity of the situation, Secretary Buttigieg waited 10 days before issuing a half-hearted tweet thread about the disaster, and FEMA promptly rejected Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's request for assistance.

As with every other disaster since Biden took office, the administration's response is geared more towards deflection, snarky tweets, and cable news pandering than providing any substantive solutions to help the American people.

On the Homeland Security Committee, we will exercise the full weight of our investigative and oversight powers to hold the administration accountable.

TWEET: [Is this supposed to reassure people?](#)

Co-sponsoring the Lumbee Fairness Act

Today, I joined Congressman David Rouzer and other bipartisan members of the North Carolina delegation in [introducing the Lumbee Fairness Act](#). This bill will provide long-overdue federal recognition and protections to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. Senators Thom Tillis and Ted Budd (R-NC) introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

Though Congress first recognized the Lumbee Tribe in 1956, they were deemed ineligible to receive the rights and benefits provided to federally recognized tribes. It's far past time to remedy this injustice and secure full federal recognition for the Lumbee - and the Lumbee Fairness Act will do just that. The Lumbee are some of the most patriotic, hardworking people out there, and have had a continuous and positive presence in North Carolina for three centuries. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation and will continue to fight for the Lumbee Tribe to get the federal recognition they deserve.

NOW HIRING SPRING AND SUMMER INTERNS!

My office is now hiring Spring and Summer interns. All internships are paid and offer students the opportunity to gain valuable experience serving on Capitol Hill.

Interns will be asked to answer phones, conduct research for the Member and legislative staff, assist the communications team, attend hearings and briefings, and participate in educational opportunities.

Any interested applicants should email their resume to Austin.hoffman@mail.house.gov.

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